Exchange of civilian detainees between India and Pakistan

481. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan are going to exchange civil detainees in their respective countries under an agreement between the two countries;

(b) if so, what is the number of Indian civilians detained in Pakistan which are to be repatriated and how many of them were detained there for smuggling and other criminal offences; and

(c) what action Governmsnt propose to take against these criminals after their repatriation to India for their anti-national activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) It was decided during Foreign Secretary's visit to Pakistan in January, 1986 that all civilian detainees who have completed their periods of imprisonment will be repatriated by 31st March, 1986. Subsequently 63 Indian civilian detainees have been repartriatsd on 20-2-1986. Only those detainees who have completed the sentences awarded to them are bsing repatriated.

Information from U.K. Government regarding assassination of Shri Tarsem Singh Toor

482. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.K. Government had informed India on or about January 27, 1986 that the murder of Shri Tarsem Singh Toor, General-Secretary of the Indian Overseas Congress sometime back, was a political assassination; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have strongly condemned the assassination and have asked the U.K. Government to take immediate steps to apprehend and punish the culprits, and to ensure the protection and security of Indian residents in the U.K.

Seeking of refugee status by Sikhs in Canada

483. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2,800 Sikhs arrived in Canada recently and sought refugee status;

(b) if so, what was the response of the Canadian Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government have sought their deportation to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. According to available information around 2,800 Sikhs, under the pretext of the situation in Punjab over the last few years, had applied for refugee status in Canada.

(b) These cases are being processed according to Canadian Law.

(c) No, Sir, However, Government has made it clear to the Canadian Government that allegations of discrimination, persecution etc., of any community in India advanced as reasons for seeking refugee status are absolutely baseless and false.

Indian help to Libya in its conflict with US

484. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Libya had sought India's help in the recent US-Libya confrontation; and